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INSECT PEST SURVEY

Bureau of Entomology, U. S. D. A.
and
State Agricultural Experiment Stations
cooperating.

Special Report 2.

March 22, 1921.

CHINCH BUG INJURY IMMINENT IN THE MIDDLE WEST.

Professor R. H. Pettit, Entomologist of the Michigan Agricultural College, reports that "chinch bugs have gradually become common in the lower tier of counties next to Ohio and Indiana. The present open winter has shown them to be quite numerous on the under sides of mullen leaves and similar plants. We have been fortunate in the past in having been almost free from serious chinch bug attacks, but expect to have to deal with them during the coming summer."

On February 14, the St. Louis County Farm Bureau reported to A. F. Satterthwait, of the Office of Cereal and Forage Insect Investigation of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, that masses of living chinch bugs were being found on corn stalks standing in the fields, and that the bugs were running over the ground to growing wheat. It also reported that grasshoppers were appearing in numbers in wheat and alfalfa fields. Mr. Satterthwait investigated the matter and found chinch bugs present as reported, except not in masses. The bugs were migrating from corn fields where the corn had been shocked on the ground and had scattered to the neighboring wheat. Some bugs were found as much as a half inch below the surface of the soil on the wheat. Bugs were present also under the sheaths in at least one field, and were present in the pithy portions of decaying corn stalks remote from living vegetation. The grasshoppers were found to be the nymphs of Chortophaga viridifasciata, a species which hibernates in the nymphal condition and is always present in some numbers during the winter time and is of no great economic importance.

